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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re United States Patent Application of:

Applicant: Jason C.H. Shih

Application No.: 10/007,613

Date Filed: October 26, 2001

Title: METHOD AND COMPOSITION
FOR STERILIZING SURGICAL
INSTRUMENTS

Docket No.: 4171-102 CIP

Examiner: Zachariah Lucas

Art Group: 1648

Confirm. No.: 4213

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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION CERTIFICATEATTN: Examiner Zachariah LUCASFax No.: (703) 872-9306

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Number of Pages (including cover)

Yongzhi Yang

August 30, 2004

Date

RESPONSE TO JUNE 30, 2004 FINAL OFFICE ACTION
IN U.S. PATENT APPLICATION NO. 10/007,613

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This responds to the June 30, 2004 Final Office Action in the above-identified application.

Please amend the claims of the application as set out in the following Section I (Amendments to the Claims). Remarks addressing the various issues raised in the June 30, 2004 Final Office Action are set out in Section II (Remarks) hereof.

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references.

Patentable Distinctions of Claim 80

Similar to claim 39, claim 80 requires "one or more articles... wherein said articles are characterized by a first elevated temperature of at least 40°C and not more than about 150°C during a first duration, and wherein said articles are characterized by a second elevated temperature in a range of from about 50°C to about 65°C and exposure to the *Bacillus licheniformis* PWD-1 keratinase during a second, subsequent duration."

Therefore, claim 80 also patentably distinguishes over the cited references, for reasons corresponding to those set out hereinabove for claim 39.

Patentable Distinctions of Claim 82

Similar to claim 56, claim 82 requires "one or more articles... wherein said articles are characterized by an elevated temperature of from about 40°C to about 50°C and exposure to *Bacillus licheniformis* PWD-1 keratinase."

Therefore, claim 82 also patentably distinguishes over the cited references, for reasons corresponding to those set out hereinabove for claim 56.

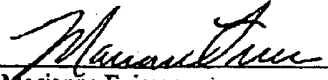
CONCLUSION

Based on the amendments made herein and the foregoing remarks, pending claims 1-51, 53-56, 63, 68, 69, 71, 73-80, and 82 as cancelled/amended herein are now in form and condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is respectfully requested to reconsider and allow such amended claims.

No fee is rendered payable for this Response. Nevertheless, authorization hereby is given to the Office for charging any fee necessary for the entry of this Response to Deposit Account No. 08-3284 of Intellectual Property/Technology Law.

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Respectfully submitted,



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